

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 723

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION to urge all agencies and institutions of higher education in Tennessee to encourage innovation in efforts to lower the cost of textbooks.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect provide the opportunity for all Tennesseans to attend college; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of college textbooks remains a barrier to higher education; and

WHEREAS, according to the College Board, students must spend an average of \$1,300 for hardcopy textbooks and supplies annually; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government Accountability Office found textbook prices increased eighty-two percent between 2002 and 2012, more than three times the rate of inflation; and

WHEREAS, technology can enable more cost-efficient delivery of textbooks and course materials to students; and

WHEREAS, many postsecondary institutions are embracing the use of digital textbooks and digital learning systems to address access and affordability challenges; and

WHEREAS, lower-cost digital textbooks are accessible offline and on any device, allow greater access for students with disabilities, and integrate interactive reading tools and media such as video, animations, and quizzes that can help increase student engagement and raise outcomes; and

WHEREAS, digital learning systems are already widely used in postsecondary institutions and provide a technical platform for learning, assessment, and analytics to access and support interactive digital textbooks and coursework; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we strongly urge all agencies and institutions of higher education in Tennessee to do everything possible to adopt innovative tools that help improve postsecondary affordability and access by lowering the cost of textbooks for students in our state.